

**TEMPE** -U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell and Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin of South Dakota today toured green energy projects at Arizona State University, including the Biodesign Institute and the Engineering Research Center.

Mitchell invited Herseth Sandlin, a member of the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, to join him on the tour to see the excellent work being conducted at ASU and the enormous potential for new technology and green jobs in Arizona.

"It is important that we showcase the exciting work that's being done at ASU and in Arizona as we work to become a leader in clean energy and green jobs," Mitchell said. "I'm glad Congresswoman Herseth Sandlin was able to join me on this tour. She is one of the House's leaders on alternative energy and renewable fuels and saw firsthand the innovative research and development being done here in Arizona."

The tour highlighted ASU's research and development of bacteria-based biofuels as well as their participation in the ongoing dialogue about global warming. Mitchell and Herseth Sandlin also heard about ASU's efforts to secure federal grants to create a solar energy research hub, which could lead to new innovations that will not only improve energy efficiencies but will create jobs and drive the country's economic growth.

"My time at ASU was informative and truly fascinating," said Herseth Sandlin. "Clearly the research in solar and photo voltaic holds tremendous potential to unlock these renewable energy sources for the future. I look forward to working with Harry Mitchell to make the right investments at the federal level to achieve energy independence and to create high-paying jobs over time."

ASU's Biodesign Institute works to solve some of the world's most urgent problems affecting human health and the health of our planet including improving our environment through renewable energy and bioremediation, outpacing the global threat of infectious diseases and improving health care through more personalized medicine.

ASU's efforts dovetail with a statewide initiative to build a robust bioscience economy in

Arizona. The focused statewide efforts aim to build a higher wage, skilled, and technology-driven employment base, create new jobs at various skill levels, and create greater stability for Arizona's economy and greater availability of new medical treatments for Arizona residents.

In April, Mitchell held a sustainability town hall with local energy experts to address sustainability issues and steps we can take to create green-collar jobs. This month, ASU will be one of six locations across the United States participating in a global citizen consultation, the World Wide View.